

VIGOROUS PROTEST GOES TO AUSTRIA ON ANCONA SINKING

United States Asks Disavowal of Act and Reparation for Lives Lost.

NOTE, IN FIRM TONES, DISPATCHED TO VIENNA

So Drafted as to Attempt Settlement of Controversy Without Delay.

SITUATION ADMITTEDLY GRAVE

Every Opportunity Left for Amicable Reply, but Prompt Assurances Must Be Given.

WASHINGTON, December 8.—The United States has sent to Austria-Hungary a note asking for a disavowal of the submarine attack upon the Italian liner Ancona, assurances that such an act will not be repeated, some degree of punishment for the commander of the submarine, and reparation for the American lives lost.

The communication started by cable yesterday from the State Department to Ambassador Frederick C. Penfield, at Vienna, who was instructed to hand it to the Austro-Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Baron Burián. Word of the delivery of the note had not been received by the department to-night.

Friendly but firm tones characterize the document, which is understood to make a particular point of prompt assurances for the safety of American lives. Austria-Hungary has never informed the United States whether the commanders of its submarines had been given instructions similar to those Germany gave to its commanders after the Lusitania tragedy. It is understood that the note referred particularly to the charge that shells from the submarine killed or wounded some passengers on the Ancona, after she had been asked for an explanation on the point.

ACTS WITH APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT WILSON

In dispatching the note, Secretary Lansing acted with the approval of and in consultation with President Wilson. It is stated authoritatively that the document, which is being described as comparatively brief and of decidedly vigorous tone, was so drafted as to attempt a settlement of the controversy at once, without bringing on a series of communications such as followed the sinking of the Lusitania.

High officials are said to be of the opinion that the situation is one which calls for grave consideration, the state of affairs having become more complicated since the note was dispatched by reports of attacks upon American oil-carrying vessels in the Mediterranean, presumably by Austrian submarines.

News that the note had been sent came as a complete surprise to official Washington. Generally, the report which emanated from the State Department early in the week being that no positive and corroborated evidence as to what actually had occurred when the Ancona went down had been received. It was said that the reports received were fragmentary, conflicting or contradictory, and that until a report to the inquiries submitted to Austria-Hungary was received, it was probable that no communication would be sent to Vienna. To-night it was suggested in some quarters that information of a most conclusive nature had come to Secretary Lansing, probably late Monday night, and that it had been decided then that the protest should go forward immediately. Whether Ambassador Penfield had transmitted the reply of the Vienna Foreign Office to the list of queries submitted by the United States could not be ascertained.

STATE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES SOME ANSWERS TO QUERIES

The belief prevails, however, that the State Department had received answers of some sort to the queries. In the inquiry, Austria-Hungary was asked, among other things, whether a warning shot had been fired before the ship was shelled, whether time was given the passengers to get to a place of safety, and whether any shots were fired at the ship after she had come to a standstill, and before the torpedo that sank her was launched. The Austro-Hungarian embassy here had not been advised to-night that the inquiry had been answered, and it was said that the Italian ambassador, who has transmitted much information upon the sinking of the Ancona, had not furnished the United States with anything additional.

The Ancona was sunk in the Mediterranean Sea on November 9, while bound from Naples for New York. The only testimony of a native American survivor of the liner before the department is in a deposition by Dr. Cecil Griel, of New York. In her deposition, Dr. Griel asserts specifically that the liner was torpedoed while the men, women and children were in the cabin and steering were scrambling to get into the small boats. The department has been inclined not to accept this single statement as positive proof unless corroboration was received from some source.

Much weight was given, however, to what Dr. Griel had to say. Her testimony was considered of so much importance that she was taken to Rome, where she told her story to Ambassador Page. A report of this conversation reached the State Department recently.

After the inquiry of the United States had been before the Vienna Foreign Office several days, Ambassador Penfield reported that more time was desired.

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GOING AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS? Reduced fares for the holidays via SOUTHERN RAILWAY. Phone Madison 272.

Raised to Prelate's Rank



MONSIGNOR JAMES T. O'FARRELL

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY ATTENDS INVESTITURE

Father O'Farrell Is Elevated to Rank of Monsignor of Diocese of Richmond.

BISHOP BESTOWS THE PURPLE

Honor of Domestic Prelate Is Conferred by Papal Brief for First Time in History of Catholic Church in Virginia.

Following out the beautiful and impressive ceremonial for the occasion, Right Rev. D. J. O'Connell, Bishop of Richmond, yesterday formally invested Right Rev. Monsignor James T. O'Farrell, vicar-general of the Richmond Diocese, with the purple insignia of a domestic prelate of the papal household.

The presence in the Sacred Heart Cathedral of a congregation that taxed the capacity of the church, the attendance of several prelates and more than two score priests from within and without the diocese, the rich robes of the officiating clergymen, together with the striking ceremonial and inspiring music, all made the occasion one of unusual beauty and splendor.

MONSIGNOR RUSSELL ACCOMPANIES NEW PRELATE

The occasion was the most important in the Richmond Diocese since the consecration of Bishop O'Connell, who succeeded the late Bishop Van de Vyver. As vicar-general, Father O'Farrell was next in authority to the bishop, and will continue in that rank, but this is the first time that the title of monsignor has been conferred upon a priest of this diocese.

The ceremony began yesterday morning at 11 o'clock by a procession from the rectory through the altar gates into the sanctuary, led by altar boys, followed by the visiting clergy. Then came the master of ceremonies, Rev. John A. Kelliher, Ph. D., followed by the subdeacon of the mass, Rev. James A. Brennan, of St. Patrick's Church, Richmond. Rev. John J. Bowler, rector of St. Peter's Church, who filled the position of archpriest, came next in order, accompanied by the deacon of the mass, Rev. F. Joseph Macri, D. D., also of St. Peter's. Behind these two walked Monsignor O'Farrell, accompanied by Right Rev. Monsignor William T. Russell, D. D., LL. D., permanent rector of St. Patrick's Church, Washington, and Right Rev. Monsignor James F. Donahoe, permanent rector of St. Patrick's Church, Baltimore.

At the end of the procession, the post of greatest honor in church ceremonies, came Bishop O'Connell, accompanied by his deacons of honor, Rev. Edward M. Kearney, irremovable rector of Holy Cross Church, Lynchburg, and Very Rev. Charles Leitner, O. S. B., rector of the Benedictine College, Richmond.

INVESTITURE TAKES PLACE AT BISHOP'S THRONE

During the procession and throughout the mass the choir, under the leadership of Very Rev. Felix F. Kaup, chancellor of the diocese, rendered solemn and impressive music.

The ceremony of the investiture took place at the bishop's throne immediately before the beginning of the pontifical mass, of which Bishop O'Connell was the celebrant. Father Kearney read first in Latin and then in English the papal brief, signed by Cardinal Gasparri, secretary of state to Pope Benedict, making effective the raising of Father O'Farrell to the rank of a domestic prelate, and in which were recited the reasons for the conferring of the honor.

Monsignor O'Farrell, accompanied and assisted by Monsignor Russell and Monsignor Donahoe, next approached the bishop's throne, before which Monsignor O'Farrell knelt and was clothed by the bishop, aided by the two visiting monsignors, with the several purple robes emblematic of his new office.

Throughout the solemn pontifical mass Monsignor O'Farrell sat in a place of honor opposite to the bishop, with Monsignors Russell and Donahoe on either side.

FATHER CONWAY PREACHES FINE SERMON

Rev. Bertrand L. Conway, the eloquent Paulist father, now engaged in delivering in the cathedral a series of religious lectures, preached a sermon of singular force and effectiveness. At the end of the mass Bishop O'Connell imparted the papal benediction, after which the priests, domestic prelates

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DOUBT AS TO FATE OF AMERICAN SHIP

Conflicting Reports Concerning the Communipaw Leave Officials in Suspense.

AWAITING FURTHER ADVICES

Dispatches Give Tanker as Being Sunk, Captured and Arriving Safely in Port.

WASHINGTON, December 8.—A dispatch late to-day from Ambassador Page at Rome stating that he had been informed that the American tank steamer Communipaw had been captured and taken to a port unnamed in his message, following conflicting reports from Rome and London, one reporting the vessel sunk off Tobruk, Tripoli, and the other announcing her safe arrival at Alexandria, Egypt, left officials here in suspense.

Earlier in the day Ambassador Page had reported that an American ship, "said to have been the Standard Oil steamer Communipaw," had been torpedoed and sunk. Ambassador Page's source of information was not divulged in his message, but it was thought possible that he had received the same report as that transmitted in press dispatches last night from Rome, and that the message might simply have been delayed in transit.

IMPROBABLE THAT SEIZURE WAS MADE BY ALLIES

Officials suggested that while a German or Austrian submarine might have attacked and sunk the Communipaw, it was highly improbable that such a craft could have carried off the tanker, because the close blockade of the Adriatic by the allied fleets left no Mediterranean port open for the Austrians and Germans to enter. As the vessel was bound for Alexandria, an allied port, it seems improbable that the seizure was made by an allied submarine.

State Department officials are awaiting with interest further information both as to the Communipaw and the Standard Oil tanker Petrolite, reported attacked by a submarine in the Mediterranean Sunday morning.

United States consular and diplomatic agents in Europe, it was assumed, would cable additional details at the earliest possible moment, although they had not been requested to do so.

OFFICES IN NEW YORK HEAR TANKER IS SAFE

NEW YORK, December 8.—A dispatch from Alexandria, Egypt, apparently confirmatory of the report received by London Lloyd's that the tanker Communipaw was safe, was received by the Standard Oil offices here. The message stated that the Communipaw reached Alexandria on Sunday last and would sail for New York on Tuesday (yesterday).

The dispatch came from Captain Nordstrom, of the Communipaw, and was given out by David T. Warden, manager of the foreign shipping department of the Standard Oil Company, of New Jersey.

The Communipaw could make only nine knots an hour, Mr. Warden said, and assuming she left Alexandria on Tuesday, or even Monday, she could not have gone 350 miles to a point near Tobruk, Tripoli, off which the original cablegram from Rome said the vessel had been sunk. This dispatch was filed at Rome at 7:45 Tuesday morning, the day the Standard Oil had been advised the Communipaw left Alexandria.

"I feel sure the Communipaw is safe," said Mr. Warden, "but we are still puzzled as to what, if anything, has happened to the Petrolite. We do not expect any word from her until she reaches Algiers."

REPORTED AS ARRIVING AT ALEXANDRIA MONDAY

LONDON, December 8.—A telegram from Alexandria, Egypt, received to-day by Lloyd's, says that the American steamer Communipaw, reported sunk off the coast of Tripoli by a submarine, arrived at Alexandria on Monday.

It is inferred that possibly some confusion has arisen in regard to the identity of the vessel torpedoed. If the report of the torpedoing of the Communipaw is substantiated, she must have discharged her cargo of oil and been on the way to another port when attacked.

It is recalled that the point at which the Communipaw is said to have been sunk corresponds closely to the position of the American tank ship Petrolite when it was attacked by a submarine on Sunday.

The announcement from Rome of the torpedoing of the Communipaw said she had been sunk near Tobruk, Tripoli. The position of the Petrolite was given as off the southeast coast of the Island of Crete. The island lies directly north of Tripoli, about 250 miles from the African coast.

WARSHIPS ORDERED TO CHASE SUBMARINES

ROME, December 8.—The British authorities have ordered the squadron of warships at Malta and the Egyptian squadron to give chase to the submarine reported to have sunk the Communipaw. Descriptions of this submarine thus far received indicate that she was of an unusually large size.

A search by two steamers, one a Greek and the other Italian, at the spot near Tobruk, Tripoli, where the Communipaw was sunk, failed to reveal any sign of the tank ship or of survivors.

The first report of the affair came from the captain of a steamer who said that while he was cruising near Tobruk he witnessed the sinking of an American steamer by a submarine. He thought the name of this steamer was the Columbia. Inquiries made later, especially through the British authorities, proved that the ship was the Communipaw.

ALLIES WITHDRAW TO DEMIRKAPOU

Leads to Report That They Intend to Abandon Balkan Enterprise Entirely.

INVADERS REACH KENALI

Germans Score Minor Success in Champagne, Capturing Part of French Trench.

Heavy Artillery Fighting Goes On

HEAVY artillery fighting is in progress on all the battle fronts except in Russia, where comparative calm prevails.

The Tenthic allies continue to harass the Serbs and Montenegrins both in Western Serbia and several sections in Montenegro. Albanians are said to be participating in the engagements against the Serbs.

Bulgarian reports say that the French are retiring along both sides of the Vardar River, in Southern Serbia. The French report says the Bulgarians have been forced to withdraw at Demirkapou, on the Vardar.

Vienna admits the occupation by the Italians of Austrian tranches near San Michele Mountain, but says the Italians later were driven out.

LONDON, December 8.—The Balkan situation is developing rapidly. The Germans and Bulgarians have reached Kenali, on the Greek border, ten miles south of Monastir, thus threatening to outflank the Anglo-French forces, while Bulgars, who also are supposed to be supported by Germans, have attacked the allies' extreme right wing near Strumitsa.

Under this pressure the French have withdrawn from the Krivolak salient, and at last accounts had taken up a position at Demirkapou in a deep gorge about twenty miles from the Greek frontier, through which the Salonika railway runs. Here they were attacked by the Bulgarians, who, according to the French reports, were repulsed.

The plans of neither the allies nor the Germans are yet quite clear, but apparently the Germans are determined on crushing the little force which went to the assistance of the Serbians, and which has been, and is still being, re-enforced.

SALONIKI MAY BE HELD AS BASE OF OPERATIONS

The retirement of the allies to Demirkapou has led to the report that they intended to abandon the Balkan enterprise entirely, but the continued landing of troops at Saloniki would seem to deny any such intention, while there is a very strong military opinion here that Saloniki should be held as a base for future operations in the Near East.

There is little news from the other fronts. The Germans have scored a minor success in Champagne, where they captured about 500 yards of a French trench, part of which, however, has been regained; the British have received reinforcements at Kut-el-Amara, where they are making their stand after the retreat from Ctesiphon, and the Italians, who for the past two weeks have been on the offensive, are now engaged in meeting the Austrian counterattacks.

The expected offensive of the allies in Gallipoli apparently did not materialize, while throughout Russia the wintry weather has put a stop to all but small ventures.

MONTENEGRO IS ANXIOUS FOR SEPARATE PEACE

BERLIN, December 8 (by wireless to Sayville).—"According to dispatches received by the Frankfurter Zeitung," says the Overseas News Agency, "Montenegro has expressed a desire for a separate peace."

"King Nicholas, according to the dispatches, personally handed to the entire ambassadors a document suggesting the possibility of a separate peace for Montenegro, which was represented as exhausted and unable to withstand the superior forces of the enemy. The ambassadors replied that in such a case they would break off diplomatic relations and cease giving the assistance that hitherto has been accorded Montenegro."

CARRANZA MEN DRIVEN OUT

Rodriguez and His Villa Army Occupy Fronteras, South of Aguaprieta.

DOUGLAS, ARIZ., December 8.—General Jose Rodriguez and his Villa army occupied Fronteras, south of Aguaprieta to-day, driving southward Carranza forces under General P. Elias Calles. Rodriguez burned several bridges between Esquema and Fronteras, thus severing Calles's railroad communication with Aguaprieta, opposite here.

Rodriguez also cut telegraph and telephone wires upon entering Fronteras. Calles, however, managed to send word to Aguaprieta for help. Seven hundred men were dispatched this afternoon to his aid.

The capture of Fronteras places Rodriguez again between two Carranza forces and gives him control of the railroad running between Aguaprieta and Nacozari. The garrison at Aguaprieta once more was placed in readiness for attack.

Information that Villa with a small force had appeared at Batue came from reliable sources, but could not be confirmed.

PRESIDENT INSPIRES WITH HIS OPTIMISM

He Tells National Committeemen That Democracy Is Certain to Win Next Election.

LUNCHEON AT WHITE HOUSE

Cast Aside "Dress Parade" Language and Talks Freely and Confidentially.

WASHINGTON, December 8.—President Wilson told members of the Democratic National Committee at a luncheon in the State Dining-Room of the White House to-day that the Republicans had no issue for the next campaign except the tariff, and that Democracy was certain to win.

"Our constructive work has started an irresistible movement which cannot be stopped," he declared. "Any one who tells you otherwise is talking through his hat."

Mr. Wilson said nothing to indicate whether he would again be a candidate for the presidency.

Throughout his entire talk, which dealt with subjects ranging from Democratic chances of victory to features of the "isolated" life of a chief executive, the President was informal. Taking his place at the head of the table, he thrust his hands into his trouser pockets, cast aside what he termed his "dress-parade" language and talked freely and confidentially.

LEAVE WHITE HOUSE IN BUOYANT SPIRITS

Democrats of all factions greeted his remarks enthusiastically. They left the White House in buoyant spirits, declaring that his optimism had inspired them with new confidence. It was the first time, committeemen said, that a body had been received as a whole in the White House. They expressed regret that the text of the President's speech would not be given out, as they regarded it as a vigorous campaign argument.

At the outset the President said he wanted the members to feel that they were a part of a big family, of which he was a member. He asked whether any one present could suggest any campaign argument other than the tariff and the democratic opposition could advance, and they shook their heads. Nobody knew at this time, he added, what sort of a tariff measure must be framed to meet changing conditions resulting from the war.

Discussing parties and policies generally, the President insisted that the Democratic view was that the majority should rule, while that of their opponents was that a "board of trustees" should act for the people.

Touching upon the Mexican problem, he said this same majority rule should apply in Mexico as well as this country, without regard to the wishes of persons residing in other countries who held Mexican property. He expressed the belief that in due time peace would come in Mexico when the people were thoroughly tired of raising disturbances.

PRESIDENT FACES UNITED COMMITTEE

The President faced a united committee, leaders declared to-night, rumors of threatened breaks between friends of Fred B. Lynch, the Minnesota committeeman, and Chairman William F. McCombs having been promptly disposed of.

Mr. McCombs and most of the other committeemen left for their homes to-night. The chairman will name the convention committee on arrangements this week, and within a month it will hold its first meeting in St. Louis.

President Wilson was seated between Chairman McCombs and Vice-Chairman Homer Cummings, of Connecticut. Secretary Thomas J. Pence and Joseph P. Tumulty, the President's secretary, occupied seats not far from Mr. Wilson.

LAURETTE TAYLOR ILL

Original "Peg o' My Heart," Suffering With Influenza, Removed From Ship to Hotel in Ambulance.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, December 8.—Laurette Taylor was so ill when she arrived to-day on the Nieuw Amsterdam that her husband, J. Oortley Manners, wired her to a private ambulance to meet her at the pier.

"The voyage has been very stormy, and Mrs. Manners was ill when she boarded the steamer at Falmouth. Her illness is the result of a very severe attack of influenza," explained the playwright.

"Peg o' My Heart," as Laurette Taylor will be remembered by thousands of theatergoers, was taken directly to the St. Regis, where her physician ordered complete rest for ten days.

As soon as she recovers she will appear in three new plays written by her husband under the direction of Klaw & Erlanger and George C. Tyler. The first, "Happiness," will be presented in Chicago in January, and later "The Winding of Eve" will be produced. The title of the third play is to be kept secret until the plans of the producers are complete.

MORE PEACE ENVOYS SAIL

Party of Twenty-Two Leave on Frederick VIII. to Join Ford Phillips in Abroad.

NEW YORK, December 8.—The steamer Frederick VIII. left New York for Copenhagen to-day, carrying nearly 1,000 passengers, among them twenty-two persons who intend to join the Ford peace party abroad. The unusually large passenger list is due to the fact that many Scandinavians and Hollanders are going home for Christmas.

Leader of the House



MAJORITY LEADER KITCHIN.

Now that President Wilson has read his message to Congress and the issue of preparedness is before Congress and the people, Claude Kitchin, majority leader in the House, appears as one of the most important men in the public eye to-day. He is distinctly opposed to the "preparedness" movement, and is leading the fight of the anti-military faction in Congress in opposition to the administration's program. Claude Kitchin was elected from the Ninth North Carolina District.

NEWPORT NEWS PLANT IN GIGANTIC MERGER

Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company Will Form Part of Another Great Steel Corporation.

PLANS ALREADY PERFECTED

Cambria, Lackawanna and Youngstown Companies Also Taken Over. Deal Now Pending for Sale of Old Dominion Land Company.

JOHNSTOWN, PA., December 8.—Plans were announced here to-night for the merging of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, the Cambria Steel Company, Lackawanna Steel Company, Youngstown Steel and Tube Company and either the Inland or Iniquis plants near Chicago into another gigantic steel corporation.

The deal will be consummated within the next ten days if plans do not miscarry, according to J. Leonard Replogle, head of the syndicate which purchased the 240,000 shares of the Cambria Steel Company held by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

Mr. Replogle made the announcement to-night after he had obtained options on practically all of the 60,000 shares of Cambria Steel held by Johnstown people. Mr. Replogle said that his syndicate, together with other New York interests represented by him at \$3 a share, the consummation of the merger will depend on the capitalists obtaining control of 100 more shares of Cambria. It was said, however, no trouble was expected in getting these holdings. The options secured in Johnstown are good for five weeks.

KNOWN FOR SEVERAL WEEKS MERGER WAS UNDER WAY

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., December 8.—It has been known here for several weeks that plans for the merging of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company and several steel companies into a gigantic steel corporation were under way. Homer L. Ferguson, president of the shipbuilding company, is in New York and no authority five statement could be had to-night. At the time of his departure, however, it was reported that the merger probably would be effected before his return to this city.

Frank Vanderlip, New York banker and capitalist, said here to be partly responsible for the merger, recently was in this city, at which time he visited the shipyards and inspected the grounds adjacent to that plant. Officials of the local company, however, declined to make any announcement at that time.

It is reliably reported here that the merger will result in the capacity of this yard, now one of the largest in the country, being doubled, and a huge steel mill erected in this city.

Coinciding with the consummation of the merger, announcement is expected here at any minute of the purchase of the Old Dominion Land Company by New York capitalists. The New York men now have an option on the land company, which was contingent on the merger of the shipbuilding plant with the other named plants.

The land deal involves approximately \$2,000,000.

ELLA FLAGG YOUNG RETIRES

Identified With Chicago's Public Schools for Fifty-Three Years—Will Go to California.

CHICAGO, December 8.—Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, who has been identified with Chicago's public schools for fifty-three years, retired to-day. She is seventy-one years old.

Mrs. Young plans to leave immediately for Southern California, where, with Miss Laura Breton, who has been her companion for years, she proposes to establish a home.

"I am going to take a rest," Mrs. Young said, "and shall not look at a newspaper for six months. After the year I shall go to Europe."

GERMANY'S DELAY IN ATTACHES' CASE DUE TO EMPEROR

He Is Expected Personally to Order Withdrawal of Boy-Ed and Von Popen.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION IS DESIRED FOR KAISER

Application for Safe Conducts Will Be Considered Solely as Request of United States.

ALLIES MAY NOT INTERFERE

Legislation for Enforcing American Neutrality Subject of Important Conference.

WASHINGTON, December 8.—Germany's delay in complying with the United States government's request for the recall of Captain Karl Boy-Ed and Captain Franz von Popen, attaches of the German embassy here, is due to Emperor William's personal interest in the two officers, the State Department has been informed. It was stated that, as the two attaches were appointed by the Emperor, he probably would personally give orders for their withdrawal.

The Berlin Foreign Office, however, desired full information on the subject before laying it before the Emperor, and it was this that prompted the request for specific information of acts which caused the United States government to declare the attaches persona non grata.

WILL BE CONSIDERED SOLELY AS REQUEST OF U. S.

Any application for safe conducts for Captain Boy-Ed and Captain von Popen will be considered by the allied governments solely as a request of the United States.

The first impulse among representatives of the allies was to flatly refuse to enter into any undertaking to refrain from treating the two German officers, once they are deprived of their diplomatic immunity, as entitled to any treatment different from that which would be meted out to any enemy soldier or sailor.

Further consideration, however, has led to a change of view. If the United States should take the ground that it is responsible for the safe return of the two officers to Germany, the allied governments would be disposed to refrain from intervention, though it is probable that they would insist that the men gave their parole not to serve actively during the war.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8.—Methods of enforcing American neutrality, legislation necessary to insure the punishment of all who violate the American industries or institutions through international motives, and the Boy-Ed and Von Popen cases were considered at an extraordinary conference of administration officials to-day. Secretary of State Lansing, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, Secretary of War Garrison, Attorney General Gregory and Postmaster General Burroughs were present. Counselor Frank Polk, of the State Department, was called in several times in the course of the discussion. The only announcement made was that the conference discussed "domestic affairs, which have a bearing on international matters."

Coming on the heels of President Wilson's scathing arraignment of the "predators of the nation, disloyalty and anarchy" who have plotted against the neutrality, and his demand for adequate legislation to crush them out, in his message to Congress, the conference had peculiar significance. It was generally accepted as the beginning of a vigorous, aggressive campaign by the administration against the class of